

Invasion of Privacy May Force Queen To Withdraw Charles From School

London — A year ago this month Buckingham Palace started the "noble experiment" of educating Prince Charles like many another British boy.

He went to a school in London — through a first day mob scene of reporters and cameramen — and in the autumn transferred to Cheam, a blueblooded preparatory school once attended by his father, the Duke of Edinburgh.

Not for a thousand years of monarchy had an heir to the throne mingled with the commonality this way. His mother, Queen Elizabeth, and all the long historic line before her had been educated privately.

Wistfully recalling her own childhood with its very restricted list of approved playmates, the Queen was happy, though anxious, as her husky young son adapted himself to the rough and tumble of school life.

Parents Disturbed

Now the great experiment is in danger. The Queen and the Duke are disturbed by persistent efforts allegedly being made by certain periodicals to get more news about Charles at school than is available from conventional channels.

A friend of the royal family said today that he believed Buckingham Palace might appeal to these periodicals to give Charles a chance to lead a normal school life. If the appeal fails, it is possible that the Queen may reluctantly have to withdraw her son and perhaps sentence him to private tutoring.

Friends of the royal family have been complaining ever since Prince Charles entered Cheam last September of alleged intrusions on his privacy and the school's. They

said these acts were strengthening the conservative clique of courtiers who want the heir to the throne educated in the traditional way.

Plays Good Game

Whatever the offending periodicals have done, they have not succeeded in getting much important information. The news from Cheam has been the usual school news — Charles is not too quick on his feet but plays a good game of soccer and enjoys rough-housing with his chums who treat him without ceremony. That sort of thing.

When Queen Elizabeth returned from her American trip, one of her courtiers said she was impressed by the fact American journalists respect-



Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS
Ranger-Naturalist

32 Influenza Cases Reported Last Week

Despite its deceptive appearance of innocence and tranquility, deep snow on a steep mountainside is a powderkeg and represents one of nature's greatest dangers.

Without warning and with astonishing swiftness, this quiet snowfield can be converted into a raging torrent of snow—frequently a million cubic yards cascade down with terrifying power.

Reckoning the weight of these million cubic yards in freshly fallen fluffy snow, this would be 150,000,000 pounds; if wet, probably in excess of a billion pounds.

Thousands upon thousands of avalanches occur every year. In Switzerland and Austria where most of the little mountain valleys are dotted with villages and hamlets, many lives may be lost and the property damage can be great. In America, the avalanches usually thunder

down in lonely splendor in wilderness areas—say, in the precipitous Cascades, Rockies, Sierra Nevada, the Wasatch in Utah, the Ruby in Nevada, the Wallowa in Oregon. Along the eastern seaboard, even the worn-down Appalachians can cook up terrors.

Like a stream of water, snow travels much faster in the center than at the banks and bottom of the bed where the immense friction slows it down, particularly wet snow.

Wet Snow Moves Slowly

The speed of these roaring bulldozers depends upon the type of snow and the slope—its smoothness, pitch and length. Wet snow usually moves more slowly—say around 17 miles an hour. But the powdery dry snow may rush down at express train speed, 75 miles an hour. And higher. One avalanche of 4.3 miles was clocked in 1 minute and 12 seconds—that figures 217 miles an hour.

Far more devastating than the snow itself is the wind which accompanies the avalanche. A great mass of air is pushed ahead. This in turn creates a partial vacuum which is filled by violently in-rushing air. This wind is so strong that it snaps off great trees as if they were weed stems far beyond the reach of the moving snow itself. In one Oregon slide, this blast picked up a wooden bridge half a mile away from the moraine of snow and tossed it 150 feet into the air, scattering timbers far and wide. In others, it often triggers slides on opposing mountain sides.

What touches off these avalanches?

Snow on a steep slope migrates of its own accord, moving down-hill steadily, the top moving a little faster than the bottom where the friction is greater. On a 33 degree slope it may move 11 inches in 13 days. Under these conditions, it is under great strain and it may take just the brush of a feather to set it in motion. An unwary skier, a loud noise, a sudden gust of wind, the impact of a small cushion of snow falling from a cliff ledge above or even the air vibrations from a plane may trigger it.

Most Destructive

Of avalanches, those compared of dry powder snow are the most destructive. They can flow through open forest with scarcely any loss of speed or energy even avoiding a dense barrier of timber by leaping over it, meanwhile picking up speed until its force is dissipated in the valley below. Buildings standing in the way are crushed like eggshells.

Too the fine powder snow dust, as fine and far more vicious than wind-borne dust, can suffocate a man—inhaled, it melts in the lungs and fills them with water.

What to do in an avalanche? While being carried along, it is best to struggle in a swimming motion to keep atop as much as possible. But once the snow comes to rest, it is best not to struggle. Dry snow is stocked with air—simply push it away warily. If the struggle is continued, the victim often sucks into his lungs enough fine snow particles to drown him.

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Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure, the best na-

Grading Contract Given Kiewit Co.

Salem, Ore., — The State Highway Department has been awarded a \$1,056,025 contract to Peter Kiewit Son's company of Medford for 4.16 miles of grading on the Cape Ferrel-Brookings section of the Oregon Coast Highway.

M. C. Lininger and Sons, Medford, was awarded a \$107,850 contract for .79 miles of grading and paving on the Medford-Provost Highway in Medford.



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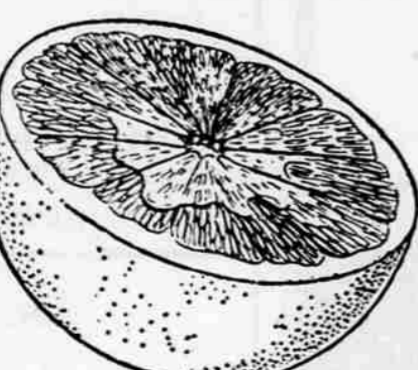
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